

LO NUESTRO

Immigration law firm announces winners in 5th grade writing contest

Special to La Prensa

SAN ANTONIO – Since the 2003-2004 school year, the Immigration Law firm of DE MOTT, MCCHESENEY, CURTRIGHT & ARMENDÁRIZ has participated in “Celebrate America,” an annual writing contest for 5th graders sponsored by the AMERICAN IMMIGRATION COUNCIL. Now, at the close of the 2009-2010 school year, the firm has announced this year’s winners for the San Antonio area.

For the contest, participating students were invited to share their creative writing and research skills by writing a poem, essay, or short story on “Why I Am Glad America Is A Nation Of Immigrants”; their efforts were judged by a panel that included Martha Tijerina, Volunteer Host and Producer of Catholic Television San Antonio (CTSA); Tino Duran, Publisher & Owner of La Prensa and Director Of La Prensa Foundation, inc.; and U.S. Representative Charles Gonzalez (D-TX), who served as an honorary judge.

Winners in the contest’s public school category are:

- 1ST PLACE: HANNAH MANN, WOODRIDGE ELEMENTARY (ALAMO HEIGHTS ISD)
- 2ND PLACE: LETICIA MEDINA, AGNES COTTON ELEMENTARY (SAN ANTONIO ISD)
- 3RD PLACE: JOSE ROMAN O. RAMIREZ, DE ZAVALA ELEMENTARY (SAN ANTONIO ISD)

Winners in the contest’s private school category are:

- 1ST PLACE: PATRICK ALOIS MONESTIER, BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL
- 2ND PLACE: DYLAN CORTEZ, BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC SCHOOL
- 3RD PLACE: AIGAIL GENEVIÈVE DICKSON, HOME SCHOOLED



La Prensa publisher Tino Duran (center) who served as a guest judge for the “Celebrate America” writing contest is pictured with Joseph B. De Mott of the immigration law firm DMCA, LLP (left) and U.S. Judge Magistrate, John W. Primomo and Martha Tijerina of Catholic Television (right), along with the winners (from L to R: Leticia Medina, Agnes Cotton Elementary; Hannah Mann, Woodridge Elementary; Patrick Monestier, Blessed Sacrament; Dylan Cortez, also from Blessed Sacrament; and Jose Ramirez, De Zavala Elementary.)

“Go Green, Viva Verde” earns Palo Alto College ACOG award

Special to La Prensa

SAN ANTONIO- The Alamo Area Council of Governments named Palo Alto College as a “2010 Air Quality Stewardship Award Champion,” recently. AACOG recognized PAC for the establishments of the Go Green, Viva Verde Committee,

which address environmental issues. The committee offers reduced bus passes, promotes carpooling and provides a bike-sharing program; installing tinted, double-insulated windows and reflective roofs; utilizing high-efficiency ac/heating, power-save software, and sensor lights; its aggressive recycling program; and foresight of plant-

ing shade trees as energy-saving measures. Dr. Denise Barkis Richter accepted the award on behalf of the Committee and Palo Alto College at a ceremony held in Main Plaza. Other recipients of the 2010 Air Quality Stewardship Award were Sea World, Pearl Historic Brewery and Green Vegetarian Cuisine.



Dr. Denise Barkis Richter accepted the award on behalf of the Committee and Palo Alto College at a ceremony held in Main Plaza. (Courtesy photo)

SARA to intervene in river management lawsuit

Special to La Prensa

SAN ANTONIO – The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) Board of Directors have voted to intervene in the federal lawsuit filed by The Aransas Project against the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) related to the management of the Guadalupe and San Antonio Rivers for the protection of endangered species in San Antonio Bay. As the agency with the statutory authority to preserve and protect the San Antonio River, the SARA

Board of Directors voted to intervene to represent the interest of the San Antonio River Basin. “The San Antonio River Authority has a direct and unique interest in protecting the environmental resources of the San Antonio River Basin from its headwaters to the Texas coast,” said SARA Board Chairman, Gaylon Oehlke. “SARA has a comprehensive scientific understanding of the complex natural systems that make up the basin environment which is shared by both humans and other animal and plant species.” SARA supported the actions of

the State Legislature to promote a scientific approach to determining the environmental requirements of the San Antonio River Basin, including the bays and estuaries of the Texas Coast, as mandated through the Senate Bill 3 environmental flows process. This collaborative, basin-wide process will provide the foundation for future decisions by the State regarding the allocation of water to meet the various water needs of the basin. Oehlke added, “By intervening in this lawsuit, we can provide important expertise and promote holistic solutions.”

Fort Sam Houston donates \$200K+ to AER campaign

By Sgt. 1st Class Manuel Torres U.S. Army North PAO

FORT SAM HOUSTON — Soldiers and community members from Army North and Fort Sam Houston banded together to contribute more than \$217,000 in donations to the Army Emergency Relief program through the 2010 Fort Sam Houston AER campaign.

To celebrate their achievements, the campaign workers hosted a Hawaiian-style luau for AER representatives and contributing units May 17. “It’s all about the Soldiers. These AER contributions help them and their Families,” said Lt. Col. Jim Chaney, deputy G1, Army North. “Soldiers are the ones accomplishing the mission on the ground, and those are the ones we need to help.”

Chaney provided information to Army North members on how they could support the AER campaign as well as the Military American Saves program, which encourages the military community to meet their immediate needs and to build long-term wealth through saving and debt reductions, according to a Military Saves organization pamphlet.

“It was a great turnout this year,” declared Staff Sgt. Lashawn Williamson, administrative assistant, ARNORTH AER representative, adding that Army North donations double its contributions from last year. AER representatives were seen throughout the various commands throughout the installation as they distributed, collected and submitted the AER contribution forms.

The tasks are rewarding, said an Army North representative, but can be challenging as well. “You need to be very patient and very persistent,” said Sgt. 1st Class Alberto Cadiz, command group noncommissioned officer, Army North. “Continue to ask people who haven’t had time to donate yet due to their busy work schedules and offer advice to those who are unfamiliar with the program. The campaign gives us an opportunity to share real-life stories of those who have been helped and saved through AER contributions.”

Sgt. 1st Class Gary Visher, who serves as a senior platoon sergeant with Company C, 232nd Medical Battalion, was recognized during the luau with a certificate of appreciation and a tropical pineapple after he had amassed more than \$19,000 in donations.

Ann Mancillas, the AER manager, congratulated the assembled representatives and noted that the campaign, regardless of the dollar amount, was a success due to countless volunteers who worked diligently in getting all the events in motion.

Mancillas, who leads the Fort Sam Houston AER campaign, started working for AER through volunteering. She said she had never worked with the military community prior to joining the team through her AER efforts but she felt it was important to acknowledge the hard work the men and women in uniform do and to thank those who supported the fund-raising campaign.

“Never in my life have I been so proud of working until I came here to work with all the Military and Civilian at Fort Sam Houston,” said Mancillas.

Additional information is available on the Army Emergency Relief program at: <http://www.aerhq.org/>.



Lt. Col. Jim Chaney, deputy G1, Army North, accepts a certificate of appreciation for his work and contributions as an Army Emergency Relief representative from Ann Mancillas, Army AER officer, and Steve Naxer, AER officer, May 17 during the 2010 AER Campaign closing Luau. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, U.S. Army North PAO)



Staff Sgt. Lashawn Williamson, an Army North AER representative who serves as an administrative assistant, receives a certificate of appreciation and an AER Lei from Erin Jacobs, AER campaign coordinator, May 17 during the 2010 AER Campaign closing Luau. Williamson, helped raised more than \$8,700 from Army North personnel. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson, U.S. Army North PAO)